

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on September 15, 2003 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17. Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 7, 8, 12, and 14-17. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2003 and also render all currently pending claims at issue patentably distinct over the references of record.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 12-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,454,074 (Hartel). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended and now recites a method of window management on a display, at least including the step of opening and displaying a window containing synoptic information related to said selected checklist.

Independent Claim 12 is now directed to a program product comprising at least instructions executable by a computer to display a user-selectable list of a plurality of checklists, each checklist having at least one user-selectable task, wherein at least one task of the at least one user-selectable task is associated with a synoptic page containing synoptic information relating to said task, and wherein a determination whether the synoptic page should be displayed is made, and if said synoptic page should be displayed, said synoptic page is automatically displayed when the user selects said at least one task.

Independent Claim 14 has been amended and now recites a method of presenting a computerized checklist on a display comprising displaying a user-selectable checklist on the display, the checklist having a plurality of tasks to be selected; receiving an input indicating a selected task from the plurality of tasks to be selected; determining whether the associated synoptic information should be displayed based on the selected task; displaying the associated synoptic information, if the associated synoptic information should be displayed, and displaying the selected task relating to said user-selected checklist, at least partially during, displaying the associated synoptic information.

Hartel relates to an electronic checklist system to provide a checklist interface unit that allows the flight crew to access and execute both normal and non-normal checklists. Hartel does not disclose at least the above noted features of independent claims 1, 12 and 14. In particular, Hartel discloses displaying checklists that include checklist line items, various command buttons and page control buttons that may be activated by the user. However, Hartel does not remotely teach or suggest displaying synoptic information.

The Examiner alleges that "the information shown in FIG. 2 is synoptic information because it is overview information related to the *Normal Checklists* 72 in fig. 5." Applicants respectfully disagree. "Synoptic information" is defined by Applicants as "certain data...which presents a graphical overview of a particular [aircraft] system. For example, if the checklist requires the user to check if portions of the fuel system are operating properly, it may be desirable for the user to have access to data concerning the fuel systems." See p. 2, ll. 22-26. In contrast, the information referred to in FIG. 2 of Hartel, is "a series of checklist line items...At the right-hand margin of each line item is the condition or status that must be achieved to complete the line item." Col. 7, ll. 8-21. Thus, nowhere does Hartel disclose or suggest displaying a graphical overview of a particular system or synoptic information.

Hence, Hartel does not disclose (or even remotely suggest) displaying synoptic information as recited in independent Claims 1, 12 and 14.

Moreover, Hartel does not teach or discuss displaying synoptic information at least partially during the displaying of checklists or tasks, as recited in claims 3 and 14. Claim 3 recites, in part, displaying in said synoptic frame a synoptic page associated with said selected task, at least partially while said selected task is displayed. Similarly, claim 14 recites, in part, displaying the associated synoptic information, if the associated synoptic information should be displayed, and displaying the selected task relating to said user-selected checklist, at least partially during displaying the associated synoptic information. In contrast, Hartel relates to checklists and associated checklist line items that are not displayed together on a single display, nor is it remotely suggested in Hartel to do so. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and claim 13 depends from claim 12, therefore Applicants rely on the above arguments for these claims as well.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable by Hartel in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,757 (Southgate).

Independent Claim 8 has been amended to now recite a method of window management on a display device for a checklist containing a plurality of tasks, said display device having a first display presented thereon, said first display having a frame layout having a first window therein, said method comprising the steps of, listing at least one of the plurality of tasks in the checklist on the first display, receiving a selection for a selected task of the listed at least one task, determining whether a synoptic window containing synoptic information is associated with said task and if so: storing the frame layout of the first display in memory, reducing the size of the first window to a reduced window and displaying the reduced window, displaying the synoptic window associated with said task while the reduced window is displayed, and repeating said listing, determining, and displaying steps for each said task of the plurality of tasks in the checklist.

As noted above, Hartel relates to an electronic checklist system to provide a checklist interface unit that allows the flight crew to access and execute both normal and non-normal checklists. Hartel discloses displaying checklists that include checklist line items, various command buttons and page control buttons that may be activated by the user. Southgate relates to a method and apparatus for managing the display of multiple windows in a computer user interface and discloses using overlapping and/or tiled windows.

However, neither Southgate nor Hartel disclose or suggest at least the above noted features of independent claim 8. In particular, neither cited reference discloses displaying a synoptic window containing synoptic information. Instead, Hartel discloses displaying checklists that include checklist line items that indicate the condition or status that must be achieved to complete the line item, while Southgate only discusses windows and does not make up for the deficiencies of Hartel. Thus, neither Southgate nor Hartel even remotely teach or suggest displaying synoptic information. Moreover, Southgate and Hartel do not disclose determining whether a synoptic window containing synoptic information is associated with a task and displaying the synoptic window associated with said task, if the synoptic information is associated with a selected task, as recited in Claim 8.

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Hartel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,137 (Roe).

Claims 15 and 17 both depend on newly amended Claim 14. Claim 15 now recites a method of presenting a computerized checklist on a display, the method comprising the steps of displaying a user-selectable checklist on the display, the checklist having a plurality of tasks to be selected, receiving an input indicating a selected task from the plurality of tasks to be selected, determining whether the associated synoptic information should be displayed based on the selected task, displaying the associated synoptic information, if the associated synoptic information should be displayed, wherein the associated synoptic information is a diagram, displaying the selected task relating to said user-selected checklist, at least partially during displaying the associated synoptic information. Claim 17 recites the steps of Claim 14 in addition to the steps of displaying synoptic information relating to the selected task, and wherein displaying the associated synoptic information includes displaying a diagram.

As previously noted, Hartel relates to an electronic checklist system to provide a checklist interface unit that allows the flight crew to access and execute both normal and non-normal checklists and discloses displaying checklists that include checklist line items, various command buttons and page control buttons that may be activated by the user. Roe relates to a method and apparatus for managing the display of multiple windows in a method and apparatus for displaying alarm information with four distinct windows: 1) alarm window, 2) alarm instruction window, 3) map display window and 4) alarm response window.

However, neither Roe nor Hartel disclose or suggest at least the above noted features of claims 15 and 17. In particular, neither cited reference discloses displaying a synoptic window containing synoptic information. Instead, Hartel discloses displaying checklists that include checklist line items that indicate the condition or status that must be achieved to complete the line item, while Roe includes a map display window. While both claims 15 and 17 include the feature of determining whether the associated synoptic information should be displayed, no determination whether to display the map display window of Roe is made. Thus, Roe does not make up for the deficiencies of Hartel.

Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not use the teaching of Roe to come up with an aircraft checklist system that displays synoptic information, since Roe is non-analogous art.

It is a basic tenet of patent law that a reference constitutes analogous art if it is either: (1) in the field of applicants' endeavor; or (2) is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446, 24

USPQ2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Here, Roe is clearly not in the field of the inventor's endeavor. The invention disclosed in Roe is for use in the alarm system field, in particular, for providing an alarm system in a building. In contrast, the Applicant's field of endeavor relates to aviation and aerospace applications, including aircrafts.

Moreover, Roe is not pertinent to the problem with which the instant invention is concerned. Specifically, this invention was conceived to solve the problem of limited display space for pilot access to synoptic information. Thus, Roe would not "have commanded itself to an inventor's attention in considering this problem." In re Clay, 966 F.2d 656, 659, 23 USPQ2d 1058, 1060-61 (Fed. Cir. 1992). As such, it is submitted that Roe is not analogous art and therefore cannot be used as a basis for a rejection.

In view of the aforementioned arguments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

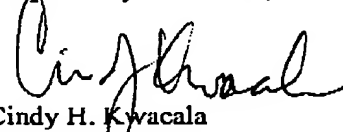
III. CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested by the Applicant. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss the above-identified patent application, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

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Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
Customer No. 29906

Respectfully submitted,


Cindy H. Kwacala
Registration No. 47,667